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Collecting For Fun Or Profit

By Jack R. Schorr



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Collecting For Fun Or Profit

By Jack R. Schorr

If you intend to make a profit out of your collection, it ceases to be fun, and a hobby, and becomes a business with all the liabilities attached thereto.

A short time ago a friend of mine decided to dispose of his Alger collection. He said he had enjoyed them for fifteen years; he picked them up when they were 50c to \$1.00 apiece. His collection was remarkable, in that most were in above average condition. The point of the story is that he was asking only a fraction of what some collectors ask. He said he had enjoyed collecting them, why should he hold someone up? That's probably why he enjoyed collecting them. He wasn't worrying about how much he could get for them, or which books he could trade them for.

Some of the most exciting finds have been made in areas least expected and not planned or bargained for. "Crossed Signals" in Big League series by Standish, in very good shape, came my way for almost the asking.

A friend of mine back East said he would find me "Radio Boys to the Rescue," one of the more difficult books to find. A few months later the book came, a nice bright copy, no strings attached. I didn't have to part with an arm for it, either. He enjoys his collection and passes on some of the fun to someone else.

It's usually when you plan and scheme to get some particular item for your collection, that you end up with something less than desirable. When you start paying what you know is too much for your books or dime novels, you set in motion, whatever you want to call it, images of

what you expect to receive and nine chances out of ten you are going to be disappointed when you get it. You are only feeding the inflation of the collecting market and taking the fun out of it for your fellow collectors.

When you start charging top prices or demanding rigid, almost impossible, trades you lose the relationship with the person you are dealing with that is essential for the fun and excitement in the deal. Pass on some of your fun. Don't be like a collector I used to know—rest his soul—who, having acquired not only one complete set of the series, was working on the third, that he could sell for ten times their worth, when it was time for him to take the curtain call. That's not fun; that's a monkey on your back.

When you charge top dollar for your duplicates, the liabilities attendant to the transaction are that the person you are selling to expects top quality and if you don't deliver an unhappy situation follows and this is not a fun thing any longer.

What I am saying is that when the spontaneity and thrill of finding and sharing some of the pleasures of your hobby cease, it's time you took a long look and decided if it's time to hang up a sign and quit the hobby, or try to find a coffin with shelving along the sides.

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There was a net increase of 15 members during 1970. Seven members died during the year, J. Edward Leithead, George French, Herbert Leitstein, John E. Clark, A. R. Seder, Col. Richard Gimbel, Rev. Roland D. Sawyer. 24 members dropped for lack of interest or other reasons. State University of New York, Morrisville, Joseph L. Kapica, Baltimore County Public Library, Richard S. Sprague, Kansas State College at Pittsburg, Kans., Ned Hall, Madelyn W. Stenberg, Carl H. Anderson, William C. Kennedy, Kenneth Magenau, Russell Hughes, J. E. Comshaw, Mary E. Bond, John F. Matt, Michael Campbell, Robert P. Burns, O. B. Holder, Mrs. Edgar J. Stone, Paul G. Brewster, D. Adamovich, James M. Burnside, Donald J. Osterhout, Mrs. Irene Gorman and Mrs. Roy E. Morris. 46 new members were enrolled beginning with No. 272 above.

NEWS NOTES

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Edwin Sommers of Prattville, New York, sent in an article from the National Observer about George Blanda comparing his feat to Frank Merri-

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